18th July 1952]

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO:—"(a) Proposals for opening a high school at Kayiliyad in Walluvanad taluk in Malabar district were received by the Director of Public Instruction.

"(b) The locality is already served by four secondary schools, within a distance of 3 to 4 miles. Permission was therefore not accorded for the opening of a new high school at Kayiliyad."

SRI V. SANKARANARAYANA MENON:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have any proposals to have one high school for every revenue firka?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO.—"The policy of the Government is to ensure that there is at least one high school for each taluk in the first instance."

SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP:—"May I know, Sir, what are the pre-requisites for granting permission to open high schools?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO:—"Sir, the pre-requisites are the need of the locality, the existence of other high schools in close proximity and the fulfilment of conditions with regard to the staff and other requirements of a high school."

SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN:—"May I ask, Sir, what are the specific conditions to be fulfilled for a high school to be sanctioned?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO:—"I have already answered the question."

SRI C. PULLA REDDI:—"May I ask, whether, in view of the fact that there are only 126 high schools in the whole of Rayalaseema out of 1,100 high schools in the whole of the State, the Government will consider the desirability of sanctioning some more high schools in Rayalaseema?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may put a separate question on the subject."

*Betterment levy under the Town-Planning Act.*

* 118 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state on what basis is the betterment levy under the Town-Planning Act and rules arrived at and whether it is arrived at without reference to or with reference to—

(1) Houses built with loans from co-operative building society;

(2) Owner occupied houses; and

(3) Economic conditions of owners?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The attention of the hon. Member is invited to sections 23 to 29 of the Madras Town-Planning Act, 1920, and to rules 55 to 64 of the Rules under the Act, which regulate the assessment, levy and collection of betterment contribution.

" None of the three factors referred to by the Member is taken into consideration in arriving at the amount of contribution."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" What action was taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Provincial Town-Planning Committee that betterment levy should be imposed only when betterment in the locality is actually effected by the local body concerned? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, certain provisions recommended by the Provincial Town-Planning Committee relating to the levy of betterment contributions have been accepted by the Government."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Corporation of Madras levy a betterment tax, spread over a period of 20 years, based on an arbitrary estimate of increase in the value of the land and not with reference to the actual cost of the betterment effected in the area? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" May I know, whether the Government are aware that the betterment levy is an unnecessary penalisation of the poor house-owner? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As a result of undertaking Town-Planning Schemes, the land value increases and a local body is entitled to recover one-half of the increased value of such land."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" Will the Government see that undue hardships are not caused to the poor people when betterment levies are imposed? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" If any undue hardship is caused, it is considered by the arbitrator appointed for this purpose."

### *Excise duty on Ayurvedic tonics.*

* 119 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation against the proposal of levying an excise duty on certain Ayurvedic tonics like Dashamularista, Draksharishta, etc., from the Ayurvedic practitioners and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration."